

Montgomery County Department of Police



2007 Year-End Crime Report



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE MEDIA SERVICES DIVISION

2350 RESEARCH BOULEVARD ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850-3294 240-773-5030

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Media Services Division, 240-773-5030

Year-End 2007 Crime Statistics

Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger today announced a 0.03% decrease in total crime within Montgomery County for the 2007 calendar year. Uniform Crime Reporting (URC) statistics for year-end 2007, as compared to year-end 2006 show:

- **Part I Crime increased by 1.2%**
- **Part II Crime decreased by 0.7%**
- **Overall, Total Crime (Part I and Part II totals) decreased by 0.03%**

Reports of Part I Crimes Increased by 1.2%

Murder:	Increased by 18.8%	(from 16 to 19)
Rape:	Decreased by 8.5%	(from 141 to 129)
Robbery:	Decreased by 6.0%	(from 1,166 to 1,096)
Aggravated Assault:	Decreased by 2.2%	(from 833 to 815)
Burglary	Decreased by 6.7%	(from 3,804 to 3,551)
Larceny	Increased by 4.0%	(from 16,860 to 17,536)
Auto Theft	Decreased by 0.4%	(from 2,493 to 2,483)

Reports of Part II Crimes Decreased by 0.7%

Part II crimes are defined as minor assaults, arsons, forgery-counterfeiting, bad checks, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons offenses, sex offenses, controlled dangerous substance (CDS) violations, gambling, family offenses, juvenile offenses, liquor law violations, disorderly conduct, suicide, and non-traffic offenses.

Homicides:

Of the 19 homicide cases in 2007, 12 of them were directly related to domestic situations. Sixteen (84.2%) of the victims were previously affiliated with their killers. Sixteen of the 19 homicide cases have been closed, resulting in an 84.2% closure rate. Eleven of the victims were killed by a firearm (57.9%); five by cutting/stabbing (26.3%). The remaining three victims were killed by other means (15.8%).

Rapes:

There were 129 reports of rape in 2007. More than 73% of the victims were related to or previously acquainted with their attacker. Over 31% of the reported incidents were known to have involved drug or alcohol use beforehand.

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Robberies:

Of the 1,096 reported robberies, 149 were commercial in nature, 30% fewer than in 2006. Bank robberies were down by almost half in 2007, falling to 19 from 37 in 2006. Non-commercial robbery numbers remained about the same with 947 this year compared to 953 in 2006. Approximately one-third of the street robberies reported were “pack” robberies, which involve three or more suspects.

Aggravated Assaults:

Of the 815 reported aggravated assaults, 28.7% (234) were domestic in nature and 5.3% (43) were against police officers. Over 84% (687) of the reported incidents involved the display or use of a weapon.

Burglaries:

Both residential and commercial burglary reports decreased in 2007. Of the 3,551 reported incidents, 2,550 were residential burglaries, and 914 were commercial burglaries. Burglaries to unsecured homes, where a window or door was unlocked or open comprised over 25% of the reported residential burglaries. General retail establishments, to include beer & wine stores, convenience stores, dry cleaners and sporting good stores comprised the largest block of commercial burglary targets. Office buildings were the second most popular targets, with restaurants and bars being the third.

Larcenies:

Thefts from vehicles comprised the largest increase in reported crime in Montgomery County, rising from 8,022 in 2006 to 9,047 in 2007, a 12.8% increase. Many of these thefts from vehicles may have been prevented by simply locking car doors (over 20%), and not leaving valuables in plain site inside the vehicle. There was also a 7.3% increase in reported incidents of shoplifting, 2,742 in 2007 as opposed to 2,556 in 2006.

Auto Thefts:

With ten less incidents than the previous year, 2007 vehicle thefts remain relatively unchanged.

Motor Vehicle Collisions:

- The total number of all motor vehicle collisions investigated by Montgomery County Police decreased by over 500, dropping to 11,498 in 2007 from 12,076 in 2006.
- The total number of fatal collisions decreased in 2007. There were 39 collisions resulting in 41 deaths, down from 50.
- Twelve of the fatal collisions were alcohol related, down from 15 in 2006.
- Total number of collisions resulting in injury decreased by over 400, dropping to 4,398 in 2007 as opposed to 4,813 in 2006.
- Pedestrian fatalities stayed exactly the same as 2006, with 17 pedestrians being struck and killed.
- Pedestrian collisions decreased slightly from 429 to 412.
- There was one bicyclist fatality, as opposed to none in 2006.
- The number of motorcycle fatalities dropped in half from 4 in 2006 to 2 in 2007.
- Total number of motorcycle collisions dropped by more than half from 123 in 2006 to 44 in 2007.

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- Total number of collisions involving drivers under the age of 21 decreased from 2382 in 2006 to 2016 in 2007.
- Eleven persons that died in collisions this year were under the age of 21.

The statistics in the Year-End Crime Report do not reflect crimes that have occurred in the City of Takoma Park. The City reports their statistics separately.

Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger stated, "Our crime rate stayed fairly steady in 2007, decreasing a fraction of 1%. I was most encouraged by the 6% decrease in robbery cases. Robberies have been the one category of crime that had been on a steady increase, so I was pleased to see the numbers go down in 2007. Patrol Officers, detectives, plain clothes personnel, and our superior crime analysts all played a role in our efforts to curb these robberies. One of the crime trends we noted last year was an increase in thefts from vehicles. More than 1,000 people had their cars broken into. Locking your car and keeping valuable items hidden from view will prevent many of these thefts. Montgomery County remains a very safe place to live."

Note: A copy of these crime statistics, as well as those from previous years is available at the Montgomery County website under the Crime Stats link on the Media Services/Press Release page at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police. Or a copy can be picked up at the Montgomery County Police Headquarters at 2350 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850

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DEPARTMENT
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Published by:
Media Services Division
Police Headquarters
2350 Research Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20850

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